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# Pentagon begins tightening security-clearance routines

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Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger yesterday ordered a sweeping overhaul of security procedures, including a reliability program for holders of Top Secret clearances.

The reliability program will be applied to those individuals who work "in especially sensitive programs or [who are] assigned to Top Secret positions of high criticality," the Pentagon said in a brief statement.

In essence, the program will require the supervisor of such employees to conduct his own evaluation of individuals moving into such jobs as well as periodic re-evaluations instead of relying on formal background checks. The program will be modeled after the department's Personnel Reliability Program, a similar effort that long has been applied to men and women with access to nuclear weapons.

Also approved yesterday were orders to begin periodic, unannounced briefcase inspections at Defense Department facilities, including the Pentagon; to require cleared employees to report foreign travel plans in advance; to set an annual "clean-out day" that would be devoted to the removal and destruction of outdated classified materials; and to create uniform rules requiring all employees and defense contractors to report contacts by foreign nationals.

The Pentagon will also make greater use of its authority to withhold payments on classified contracts "in order to enforce compliance with DOD security

requirements;" establish minimum levels of required training for both military and contractor security personnel; realign the rules governing security clearances for "immigrant aliens;" and expand the scope of the investigation conducted on individuals applying for a Secret clearance.

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implementation." Pentagon spokesman Glenn Flood said many of the changes would require months to implement and that it was impossible to predict when all the changes would be in place.

The 48 changes were among 63 recommendations urged on Mr. Weinberger by a special Pentagon commission formed in the wake of last summer's so-called Walker spy scandal. Four men — three from the same family — have been convicted or accused of passing Navy communications secrets to the Soviet Union for almost 20 years.

The commission, which was headed by retired Gen. Richard G. Stilwell, released its report Nov. 21.

Mr. Weinberger promptly accepted three of the recommendations and said he would study the remainder.

Those three involved an expansion of the Pentagon's lie-detector program; the institution of unusually tight controls over so-called "crypto-access" communication materials; and a special one-time command inspection of all units handling sensitive documents.

Until yesterday, however, when the Pentagon released the brief, one-page statement, the fate of the remaining recommendations had been unclear.

Mr. Weinberger also accepted a recommendation that individuals being reviewed for a Secret clearance undergo a more stringent check. Instead of stopping with a check of FBI and other federal records, Mr. Weinberger directed that investigations for Secret clearances include a credit check and written inquiries to present and past employers.

He also ordered creation of a "billet control system" for Top Secret clearances, under which individuals holding such a clearance would automatically lose it upon leaving a specified job that requires one.

Pentagon employees will be required "to report to their security office all personal foreign travel in advance." Mr. Weinberger also approved a related requirement that such travel records be maintained for a five-year period.

The secretary also ordered the establishment of a new general policy, subject to only limited waiver, prohibiting employees from working alone in areas where Top Secret documents are maintained.